

## DESERT CHAPARRAL VEGETATION COMMUNITY



This community exists on the leeward side of the Peninsular Range including Mount Laguna, Volcan Mountain and Hot Springs Mountain. Approximately 143,000 acres of this community occurs in San Diego County. It grows mostly in remote areas of the County and up to this point, has been exposed to little human disturbance.

Desert Chaparral is composed of several typical chaparral species, including Chamise, but it also contains a number of species that are well-adapted to its harsh climate with very hot, dry summers, occasional late summer rainfall, and cool to cold winters with relatively low rainfall. Shrubs that are found in this community include Desert apricot with white blooms, Cupleaf white lilac, and Turpentine broom. In some locations, Redshank also occurs.

Good locations to observe Desert Chaparral are on the lower portions of Banner Grade, particularly the portion that enters into San Felipe Valley, the eastern portions of McCain Valley, and some of the lands around Jacumba.

These areas are generally known for rocky, boulder-filled terrain and are home to a number of reptiles including the Barefoot gecko and on the lower slopes, Chuckwalla. Because of the general lack of disturbance in this area, large wildlife including Mountain lions and Mule deer inhabit this vegetation community. Peninsular bighorn sheep also occur within this community.



Courtesy of the County of San Diego  
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